

**Refugee Review Tribunal
AUSTRALIA**

RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE

Research Response Number: GHA32756
Country: Ghana
Date: 13 March 2008

Keywords: Ghana – Ghana Gay and Lesbian Association (GALAG) – Prince Kweku MacDonald

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Questions

- 1. When was the Gay and Lesbian Association of Ghana (GALAG) formed? Has it ever been known by any other name? What was their email address in 2004? Has GALAG ever issued membership cards with members' photographs?**
- 2. Is there also a Ghana Gay and Lesbians Association?**
- 3. Is Prince Kweku McDonald ever known as Patrick?**
- 4. Deleted.**

RESPONSE

- 1. When was the Gay and Lesbian Association of Ghana (GALAG) formed? Has it ever been known by any other name?
What was their email address in 2004? Has GALAG ever issued membership cards with members' photographs?**
- 2. Is there also a Ghana Gay and Lesbians Association?**
- 3. Is Prince Kweku McDonald ever known as Patrick?**

A search of the internet sources consulted provided limited information on these matters.

An article dated 6 May 2004 on the Behind the Mask website seems to indicate by omission that GALAG had, at that time, not yet been formed. The article discusses gay rights in Ghana and mentions the International Gay and Lesbian Association and a local group known as the Center for Popular Education and Human Development, founded by a man identified as "Prince". According to the article:

Another gay man, called Prince, 27 years old, is the founder of the Center for Popular Education and Human Development (CPEHD). Prince said the group started informally in 1995 with small meetings. They officially registered last year, with the mission of improving human rights awareness, gender sensitization, and issues that affect gay men, such as STIs, STDs and AIDS ('Ready for gay rights?' 2004, Behind the Mask website, 6 May <http://www.mask.org.za/article.php?cat=ghana&id=238> – Accessed 12 December 2007 – Attachment 1).

Reference to “the newly formed Gay and Lesbian Association of Ghana” is made in an article dated 24 June 2004. The article is attributed to “Prince”. The contact email addresses for the association listed in footnote to the article are gaytourghana@yahoo.com and popeducation@zwallet.com (Prince 2004, 'Gay in Ghana', The Gully website, 24 June http://www.thegully.com/essays/gaymundo/040623_gay_life_ghana.html – Accessed 13 March 2008 – Attachment 2).

An article dated 11 September 2006 on the Behind the Mask website mentions the Gay and Lesbian Association of Ghana, referring to its president as “Patrick McDonalds” ('Ghanaian gay leader attacks media' 2006, Behind the Mask website, 11 September <http://www.mask.org.za/article.php?cat=&id=1322> – Accessed 25 January 2008 – Attachment 3).

A statement dated 15 September 2006 by Prince Kweku MacDonald for the Gay and Lesbian Association of Ghana appears on the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission website. Two email addresses for GALAG – Gayghana@yahoo.com and ghanagay@yahoo.com – are provided in the footer to the statement (MacDonald, P.K. 2006, 'Gay and Lesbian Association of Ghana Speaks out on Recent Attacks', International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission website, 15 September <http://www.iglhrc.org/site/iglhrc/section.php?detail=679&id=5> – Accessed 15 October 2007 – Attachment 4).

In consultation with the Member, it was agreed that the Research Officer contact GALAG by email with a view to obtaining more specific information regarding these matters. That request for information was sent to the above mentioned email addresses (RRT Research & Information 2007, Email to the Ghana Gay and Lesbian Association, 13 December – Attachment 5).

A reply was received on 14 January 2008 in an email from Mr MacDonald stating that he would be happy to provide information by telephone. A further exchange of emails confirmed the telephone number (information deleted) and the Research Officer telephoned Mr MacDonald on 24 January 2008.

Communication during the call was hampered by poor sound quality, but the following information was gained. Mr MacDonald confirmed that he is the president of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Ghana and that his full name is Prince Kweku MacDonald. Asked whether he has also been known as Patrick MacDonald or Patrick McDonalds, he replied that, to his knowledge, he has not been known by any names other than his own. Asked whether GALAG is the only association in Ghana representing gay and lesbian people as a group, Mr MacDonald stated that it is, adding that not all gay and lesbian people in Ghana are members of the association. Mr MacDonald stated that GALAG has never had membership cards.

4. Deleted.

List of Sources Consulted

Internet Sources:

Government Information & Reports

Government of Ghana website <http://www.ghana.gov.gh/>

Topic Specific Links

FINA website <http://www.fina.org>

FINA World Championships – Melbourne 2007 website <http://melbourne2007.com.au>

Search Engines

Copernic search engine

Databases:

FACTIVA (news database)

BACIS (DIAC Country Information database)

ISYS (RRT Research database)

List of Attachments

1. 'Ready for gay rights?' 2004, Behind the Mask website, 6 May
<http://www.mask.org.za/article.php?cat=ghana&id=238> – Accessed 12 December 2007.
2. Prince 2004, 'Gay in Ghana', The Gully website, 24 June
http://www.thegully.com/essays/gaymundo/040623_gay_life_ghana.html – Accessed 13 March 2008.
3. 'Ghanaian gay leader attacks media' 2006, Behind the Mask website, 11 September
<http://www.mask.org.za/article.php?cat=&id=1322> – Accessed 25 January 2008.
4. MacDonald, P.K. 2006, 'Gay and Lesbian Association of Ghana Speaks out on Recent Attacks', International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission website, 15 September
<http://www.iglhrc.org/site/iglhrc/section.php?detail=679&id=5> – Accessed 15 October 2007.
5. RRT Research & Information 2007, Email to the Ghana Gay and Lesbian Association, 13 December.
6. Deleted.
7. Deleted.